

We are excited to present the first edition of *Posts from the CHS Admission Office*

We so appreciate your interest in Concord Hill as a school option for the 2021-2022 school year. Thank you so much for considering us as a choice in this most important decision. Concord Hill School is celebrating its 55th anniversary and continues to thrive as a leader in early childhood education in the area. We serve students age 3 through grade 3 and look forward to meeting with prospective families to explain our model in further detail. These *Posts* will offer you an insight into our admission process and give you a glimpse into the magic of our wonderful school.

This pandemic will not stop us - our admission season has begun and we look forward to another great year ahead. Our Preprimary (3 years turning 4) and Primary (4 years turning 5) students have been on campus since September 8 and our Kindergarten and First Grade students returned on October 5th. Second and third graders are engaged in a robust Home Learning model with two afternoons each week on campus for 90 minutes participating in a rotation of 3 classes outdoors and are due to phase back to campus on October 15. The schedule is working well and has allowed us to start out slow in order to ensure a safe and smooth journey.

On Friday, October 2nd we provided mandatory COVID testing on campus for all of our faculty, staff, and Preprimary, Primary, Kindergarten, First Grade students, as well as those in the small group of students who have been at school for our Virtual Learning Child Care. This testing was planned in anticipation of having our Kindergarten and First Grade students return in person on Monday, October 5 to campus for a four by one program - full day on site learning on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, with Home Learning for Kindergarten through Third Grade students on Wednesday- better known as Wellness Wednesday. This day will focus on our Specialty classes such as Art, Music, Spanish, STEM, along with other enrichment opportunities. We have chosen to bring our Kindergarten and First Grade students back to campus in the first phase so that we can increase our on-campus model incrementally, allowing us to live the experience and make the appropriate adjustments to staffing, cleaning, and other safety issues. An important strategy for us during this unique school year has always been *to go slow to go fast*. The first couple of days have been successful and should the metrics stay within the State's parameters, we will welcome Second and Third Grades back to campus on Thursday, October 15th and they too, along with their teachers, will be tested prior to returning. As we begin to finalize the October schedule, our goal is to be able to seamlessly transition back to Home Learning should we have to do so. While we are excited to welcome back our students more frequently, we are also cautious and will constantly be monitoring and paying close attention to the metrics within our area.

We hope you will join us this admission season as we would really enjoy meeting you, introducing you to our school, and of course, hearing all about your child. Choosing a school is a most important decision and we are here to help in any way possible. Please do not hesitate to be in touch with any thoughts or questions. We are here to help and look forward to our journey together. Learning looks different this year, and with a lot of

hard work and flexibility, we are creating the best educational experience while continuing to keep our students safe. We are able to provide extensive outdoor learning and playing time, as every grade level has its own assigned tented area outside. We are sad that we can't welcome you in person at this time, but Zoom has proven to be a fairly useful way to enable us to connect with our prospective families.

We look forward to getting to know your family and to going through the admission process with you and your child. As your first step, please contact me, **Susan Arzt at sarzt@concordhill.org or 301-654-2626** to have a brief conversation to get the process underway. I look forward to hearing from you and thank you, again, for your interest in Concord Hill School.

